

**THE GREASBROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1911,

. . . BY . . .

JNO. F. CHEESEWRIGHT

(M.R.C.S., England, &c.),


Medical Officer of Health.



Rotherham :

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To the Chairman and Members of the Greasbrough Urban District Council.



GENTLEMEN,

In laying before you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition generally of the Urban District of Greasbrough, for the year 1911, it may be appropriate in the first place to draw your attention to the result of the census taken last year. We have been accustomed to consider the population as varying very little from year to year, increasing, if at all, only slightly. Therefore we are not surprised to find that the population is now only five more than it was ten years ago. This fact must have some bearing on your conduct as a Council and as a Sanitary Authority.

All the environments of Greasbrough are such as to indicate that the population will probably remain much as it is for another ten years. There is at present no prospect of any industry arising in your immediate neighbourhood to cause an influx of workers.

There is no reason to anticipate the erection of new dwellings in greater numbers than during past years, so that the question of Town Planning hardly arises.

The Act of Parliament dealing with this matter must, in my opinion, have a most salutary effect in towns and villages which are developing, and in which considerable increase of population and dwelling houses is to be anticipated, but Greasbrough is not—and for reasons entirely beyond the control of this Council is not likely in the near future to be—included among such towns and villages.

Again, the early notification of Births, and the appointment of Health Visitors, doubtless serves a useful purpose in certain classes of certain communities, but I have not felt that I could urge you to take action in this matter.

The Birth Rate is low—the actual number of Births is small.

I have no reason to believe that the deaths which occur among infants could be prevented by the advent of Health Visitors, and the number of families to whom such Health Visitors could be of any practical value is small.

The Birth Rate continues to fall year by year. I believe this simply indicates—along with the census returns—that the bulk of the young people who get married in the district remove immediately into neighbouring districts more convenient to their places of employment.

I include in this Report all the Statistics required by the Local Government Board, relating to the health of the District.

When in my Report for 1910 I was able to comment extremely favourably both upon the Death Rate at all ages and that of infants under one year, I reminded you that we ought not to flatter ourselves that the satisfactory figures I was able to place before you were entirely or in great measure due to the work of this Council or its officers. Unfortunately I must this year remind you that, though much may be done by Sanitary authorities, and though more is being done than ever was done before in the history of Public Health, disease must occur over which the Sanitary Authority can have little or no control; and the issues of life and death are in the domain of the general Medical Practitioner.

One sometimes feels that Public Health Officials appropriate to themselves the Vital Statistics of their District, forgetting for the moment that the treatment of disease, and frequently the prevention thereof, are in the hands of the Medical Attendant.

Death Rates may therefore rise and fall without any reflection, creditable or otherwise, on the Sanitary Authority concerned.

But it is our duty to study the figures in those tables of Vital Statistics, to analyse them, and to determine what relation they bear to our duty and responsibility as a Sanitary Authority.

The Birth Rate.

Of the Birth-rate I need say little. There have been 82 Births during the year, giving a rate of 26·1 per 1,000 of the population. This is lower than that for any of the preceding five years.

Death Rate.

The Death-rate for 1911 is rather higher than that for any of the preceding five years. The total number of deaths registered in the District being 48, or a rate per 1,000 of 15·3 (uncorrected).

The corrected Death-rate is 16·5.

Of these 13 were persons over 65 years of age, and 16 were under one year.

Among the Causes of Death were -- Measles, 5 ; Whooping Cough, 2 ; Phthisis, 2 ; Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 14 : Cancer, 4 ; Heart Disease, 6 ; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 4.

There were no deaths due to Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever (Typhoid), or Diphtheria, diseases which in past years have caused this and other Sanitary Authorities grave anxiety, and which perhaps come more within the scope of Public Health than any of the diseases I have mentioned.

There were three deaths from drowning, a cause of death which frequently figures in your returns, though not due to any negligence on your part. There were altogether five deaths from accidents (including drowning) during the year.

Infantile Mortality.

In my last Report the Deaths of infants under one year only numbered six in eighty-seven births, that is a rate per 1,000 births of 68·9.

I am sorry to have to report a much more serious mortality for 1911.

The deaths numbered sixteen in eighty-two Births, which means an infant mortality of 195·1 per 1,000 births.

You will see in the Table appended hereto the various causes which contributed to this total. Among them are—Measles 2; Whooping Cough, 2; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 4; Pneumonia, 5. The question for us to consider is whether this Council can do anything by the exercise of its powers to prevent any of such deaths.

I have given the matter a good deal of thought. Take for example the five deaths from Pneumonia. All the cases were receiving medical attention, and I do not know in what way your officers could intervene. All that we can do is done to prevent the spread of Measles, when we know of its occurrence.

Whooping Cough is difficult to deal with. Reports from Schools stated that this disease was, over a considerable period, widespread in the district. But if all the cases reported as such by parents and teachers really were cases of Whooping Cough, I must say that you have got out of it very well with only two deaths, and those not of children attending School. I do not blame parents for keeping children at home when suffering from a severe cough, which might, if neglected, develop seriously, but I suspect strongly that frequently any Cough is called Whooping Cough, and I hesitate to act upon information which is not based upon a Medical Certificate.

In reference to the four deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis, I am aware that there was a spell of weather during last year which was very trying to infant life, and we shall await with interest returns which will indicate what effect this had upon infant mortality generally.

I am convinced that one great source of danger in the summer time is the existence of middens, which are not emptied sufficiently often, and into which animal and vegetable matter are left to decay and ferment.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been no outbreak of notifiable disease during the year. There were nine cases in all notified as follows: Diphtheria, 2; Erysipelas, 1; Scarlet Fever, 2; Puerperal Fever, 1; and Pulmonary Tuberculosis (under regulations, 1908), 3.

In all cases, every effort was made to trace the source of infection, and to prevent its spread; the disinfection being carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

In reference to Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) this disease is now compulsorily notifiable, and the next year or two will afford reliable information never before available as to its occurrence in the District, when this Council must consider what steps to take to deal with it. At present, on receipt of notification, printed information is supplied to the patient, or those in charge, with a view to preventing spread of infection.

There was one case of Puerperal Fever occurring in the practice of a midwife living under a neighbouring Sanitary Authority, which was duly notified of the case, and took the necessary steps to prevent the midwife spreading the disease. There were no further cases.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected when necessary, and improvements where required have been attended to.

Leaflets have been issued to Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers, for the purpose of impressing them with the importance of scrupulous cleanliness in everything pertaining to the milking of the Cows, and the distribution of milk

I think that the Council would do well to distribute similar leaflets to all the homes in the district, giving simple instructions in regard to the storing of milk at home, more especially during the warm weather, together with a word of warning as to the contamination not only of milk, but of all kinds of foodstuffs, by the house-fly.

The importance of this can hardly be exaggerated, especially in relation to Diarrhœa among children.

The Factories and Workshops in your district have been conducted in accordance with the regulations, and I have not had occasion to call attention to any nuisance, or to take any action.

I have frequently visited the Parish during the year in connection with Public Health requirements, and inspected the drainage of dwelling-houses when requested to do so by your inspector.

Recommendations.

(1) The continued gradual substitution of W.C.'s in place of Middens.

(2) The Asphalting and efficient Draining of all back yards.

(3) The issue of the leaflets referred to in regard to milk.

Appended to this Report are the several Tables, also the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. F. CHEESEWRIGHT.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The District has been regularly inspected ; as a result many nuisances have been removed, and a number of open Ash-middens covered over and bottoms cemented and properly constructed.

Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly inspected, and the farmers are in a position to turn out the cattle a part of most days. There is nothing to complain of. Twelve Dairies and Cowsheds in the district.

Slaughter-houses. There is only one in the District, and this is kept in a very cleanly condition, and offers nothing for complaint, being regularly inspected ; also to the slaughtering of the cattle.

The particulars of the twelve months' work is appended in Tabular Form.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
General Inspections ...	13	12	13	13	14	12	14	13	13	13	12	13	155
Visits to Drains ...	...	...	.	3	4	2	...	3	...	...	...	6	18
Drains constructed ..	...	...	...	1	3	1	..	1	...	...	...	3	9
Diphtheria ..	...	.	...	..	.	..	...	...	...	1	.	1	2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	.	...	..	2
Puerperal Fever ..	...	...	1	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Formal Notices ...	...	1	..	..	3	6	6	1	1	...	1	1	20
Water Closets ...	...	...	..	..	1	...	!	..	..	2	1	..	5
Privies... ..	3	..	...	...	1	...	...	1	..	..	...	2	7
Erysipelas ...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	.	1

Visits to Tents, Vans, &c., at Local Feast, 14 vans. Inspected and regularly visited Infant School Rooms, and fumigated 1.

Your obedient Servant,

P. G. WILKINSON, Nuisance Inspector.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

Year.	BIRTHS.			'TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS			NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Un- correct'd Number.		Nett.		of Non- residents registe'd in the District.	of Resi- dents not regist'ed in the	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.		
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	3187	103	103	32'9	38	11'9	...	...	7	67'9	...	...
1907	3170	84	84	29'6	40	12'6	...	...	10	106'3	...	...
1908	3187	110	110	34'5	43	13'4	...	...	10	90'9	...	...
1909	3200	97	97	30'3	50	14'0	...	...	11	113'4	...	...
1910	3222	87	87	27'0	38	11'7	...	...	6	68'9	...	...
1911	3136	82	82	26'1	48	15'3	1	5	16	195'1	52	16'5

Area of District in acres }
(exclusively of area } 2270
covered by water).

At Census of 1911—

Total population at all ages, 3136.
Number of inhabited houses, 679.
Average number of persons per house, 4'6.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.									
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65									65 and upwards
Small Pox																Total cases removed to Hospital.
Cholera																
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group).....	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Scarlet Fever	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever																
Enteric Fever																
Relapsing Fever.....																
Continued Fever																
Puerperal Fever.....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague.....																
Phthisis (under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908)	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Totals ..	9	..	1	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation—Wath and North Rotherham Joint Infectious Hospital.
 Total Available Beds, 36. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death, during the Year 1911.

Causes of Death. 1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 2. 4	2 and under 5. 5	5 and under 15. 6	15 and under 25. 7	25 and under 45. 8	45 and under 65. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles	5	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup.....										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	2	..	..	..		..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...										
Rheumatic Fever.....										
Cancer (malignant disease) ...	4	..	..	..	..			1	3	
Bronchitis	4	..	1	..		..	..	1	2	
Broncho-Pneumonia	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all other Forms) .	3	3	..	..	..			..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs										
Diarrhœa and Enteritis.....	4	4	..	..	..		..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Alcoholism.....										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever										
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation, including Premature Birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide Suicides	5	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	..	
Other Defined Diseases	14	..	1	..	..	..	3	2	8	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
All causes..	52	16	3	3	4	..	7	6	13	

Table IV.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1911.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES	Certified	1	..	..	..	1	3	3	5	4	16
	Uncertified										
Small Pox											
Chicken Pox											
Measles									1	1	2
Scarlet Fever											
Diphtheria and Croup											
Whooping Cough									2	..	2
Diarrhœa							1	1	..	1	3
Enteritis							1	..		..	1
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases											
Congenital Malformations											
Premature Birth											
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus							1	..	1	..	2
Atelectasis											
Injury at Birth		1	..			1					1
Erysipelas											
Syphilis											
Rickets											
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)											
Convulsions											
Gastritis											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis											
Pneumonia (all forms) .....							..	2	1	2	5
Suffocation, overlying											
Other causes											
		1	..	..	..	1	3	3	5	4	16

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 79; Illegitimate, 3.

Nett Deaths in the year—Legitimate Infants, 13; Illegitimate Infants, 3.

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“Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.”

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